



Travis County Emergency Management

March 3, 2014

Be a force of nature: Take the next step National Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 2-8

This week, March 2-8, is National Severe Weather Preparedness Week, and Travis County Emergency Services urges residents to prepare for severe weather before it strikes. Everyone can be a force of nature by taking the proactive steps of knowing the risk and preparing and taking appropriate actions before, during and after extreme weather. They can also save lives by inspiring others to do the same via social media, by phone and in person.

Travis County and Central Texas are prone to many types of life-threatening weather, from the long-term drought and 2011 fires to last year's Halloween flood that killed five people, including four in Travis County and one in Caldwell County. Our area also faces the risk of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms with dangerous lightening, winds and hail. Preparing for these dangers is key to surviving them.

Take these simple steps to increase safety before, during and after severe weather:

Know your risk.

- 1.) Stay tuned to local weather updates and weather.gov for the latest information.
- 2.) Follow the National Weather Service and Travis County Emergency Services on Facebook facebook.com/TravisCoEmergencyServices and Twitter @TravisCountyES.

Take action.

- 1.) Build a disaster supplies kit. Learn how at ready.gov/build-a-kit
- 2.) Learn how to use wireless (cellphone) emergency alerts at:
nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html#.UxERQ4XFkaF
- 3.) Buy a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio.

Be a force of nature by following the guidelines listed above, and become an example for others. NOAA researched the tornado outbreaks in Alabama and Joplin in 2011 and found that some people go to shelter immediately, while others wait for secondary confirmation of danger before taking shelter. To put it simply, many people will take action to protect themselves from severe weather only when they know others are doing so. That's why it's important to alert friends, family and others who are in the path of severe weather as soon as possible.

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Set an example.

Be a force of nature, an example to others, by letting your friends and family know how to become weather-ready, prepared for severe weather.

- 1.) Tweet that you're prepared with the hashtag #ImaForce.
- 2.) Share your preparedness story on Facebook.
- 3.) Make sure you have a family emergency plan. Learn how at: [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan).

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